

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



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To: All FS Manual Holders

From: Tammy Poppe, Food Stamp Program Officer
Public Assistance Bureau

Subject: Bulletin FS 56

Please place this bulletin at the beginning of section FS 301-2.

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SECTION: Nonfinancial Criteria

SUBJECT: Eligible Alien Status

REFERENCES: Public Law 110-161, The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

INTRODUCTION: Effective December 26, 2007, Public Law 110-161, "The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008", granted Iraqi and Afghani aliens special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Individuals and family members granted this special immigrant status are eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits the same as refugees admitted under section 207 of the INA, except the period of eligibility cannot exceed six months.

Because this is a provision of an appropriations bill, it is only in effect through the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 2008) unless extended by Federal law. If it is discovered or you become aware of any special immigrants who were denied prior to the passage of this bill, the denial should be reconsidered using this current policy.

POLICY CHANGE:

For Food Stamp Program, Iraqi and Afghani aliens and family members who claim special immigrant status must provide verification that they have been admitted under section 101(a)(27) of the INA.

The effective date of eligibility as a qualified alien is from the date the special immigrant enters the United States. The special immigrant's certification period for food stamps cannot exceed six months from the special immigrant's date of entry as the following illustrates:

DATE OF ENTRY	DATE OF FOOD STAMP APPLICATION	CERTIFICATION PERIOD
October 11, 2007 – Six months from date of entry is October 11 th through March 31 st .	January 8, 2008	3 months – January 8, 2008 through March 31 st .
December 12, 2007 – Six months from date of entry is December 12 th through May 31 st .	February 26, 2008	4 months – February 26 th , 2008 through May 31, 2008.
September 30, 2008 – Six months from date of entry is September 30 th through February 28 th .	October 16, 2008	5 months – October 16, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

Please contact your Regional Policy Specialist if you have questions or concerns about this policy.